

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: Lars BLANK et al.

Title: METHOD OF IMPROVING BIOMASS YIELD OF LACTIC ACID  
BACTERIAL CULTURES

Appl. No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: 07/22/2003

Examiner: Unknown

Art Unit: Unknown

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the examination of the present Divisional Application, Applicants respectfully request that the application be amended as follows:

The amendments presented below are in compliance with the revised amendment format permitted in the Notice from the Office of Patent Legal Administration of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated February 10, 2003, and published at 1267 OG 106 on February 25, 2003. Thus, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.121(a), (b), (c) and (d) are waived for amendments made in this application to the claims and specification.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this document.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: